



## National Council of Churches of Singapore

新加坡基督教全国教会理事会

Majlis Kebangsaan Gereja-Gereja Singapura

திருச்சபைகளின் தேசிய மன்றம்

### Meeting with Minister of Health Mr Gan Kim Yong – 14 February 2020

The head of churches met the Minister of Health Mr. Gan Kim Yong on the evening of Valentine's day and below are the highlights from the meeting

The COVID-19 situation is nowhere near DORSCON Red. Government encourages churches to continue regular worship services with the necessary screening, declarations and precautions. Prepare to sustain for a period of at least 3 months for things to get back to normal.

Transmission by people with no symptoms at all is highly unlikely. But even mild respiratory symptoms, with or without fever, increases the chance of transmission. Hence temperature screening and health declarations must be holistic and people who are even mildly unwell should rest at home, and not go to work, come to church or mingle with the community or go shopping. GPs can give up to 5 days MC for people to rest at home.

Churches should reduce the number of people in each service by encouraging those who are unwell not to come, and by considering more service timings. People should stick to the same service and not cross-mingle. This way, if there is a case, only the group that the patient interacted with while symptomatic need to be closed and not the whole church.

Churches should promote proper hand cleaning technique with soap/water or with hand sanitizer. Consider alternatives to objects touched by many people, e.g., offering bags, hymnals. They should also intensify cleaning of high contact surfaces.

If there is a case linked to a church when the patient was symptomatic, MOH will quarantine only the close contacts. Quarantined people themselves are not considered a transmission risk until they show symptoms. If they are quarantined before they show symptoms, people they had contact with before quarantine are not at risk.

To summarise:

- Urge people to stay home even when mildly unwell. —Practice diligent pre-service screening and declarations.
- Reducing group size by offering more service slots (no magic number).
- Adopt low-touch practices (greetings, communion, offering, etc).
- Clean hands, clean premises.
- Encourage Christians not to discriminate against people from China and healthcare workers.

You can find more information from MOH website following this [link](#).

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